Honey Sour Flavor

Nomoto Nagina

Chapter 5

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A.K.A
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Fujoshi Bitches

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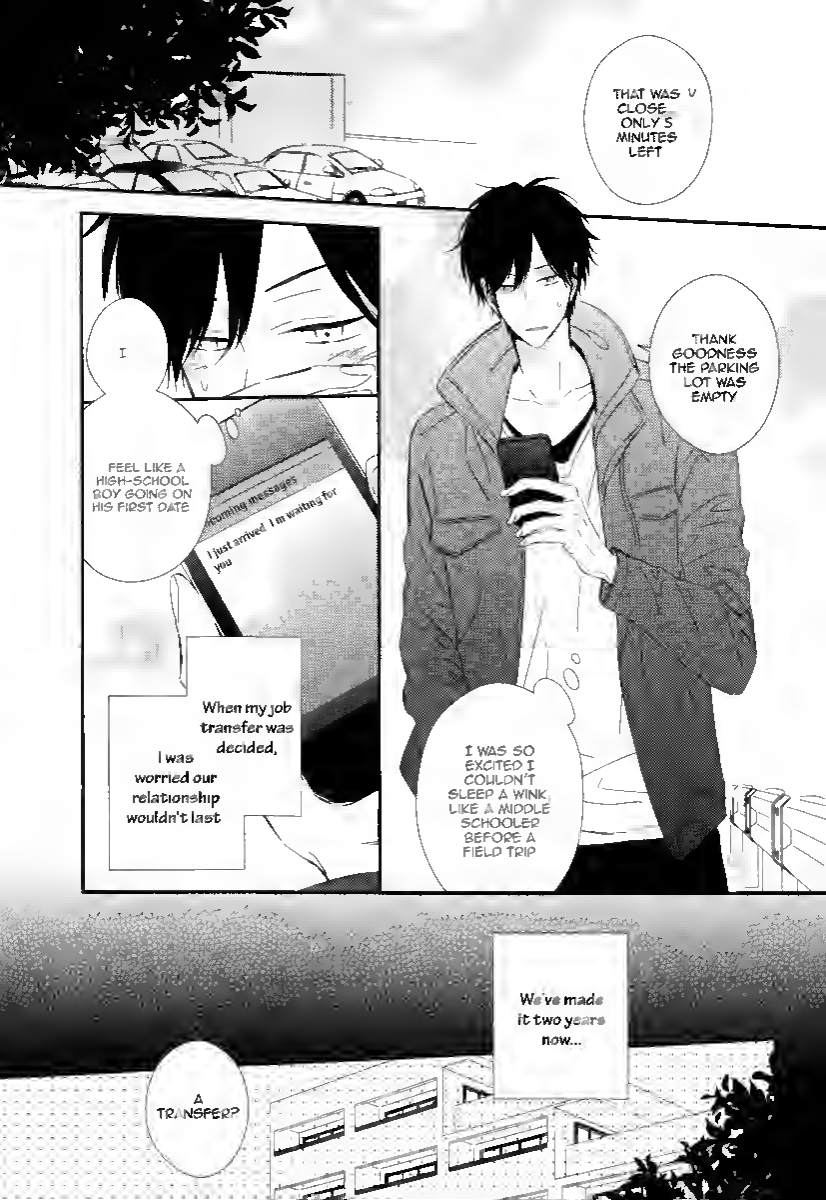
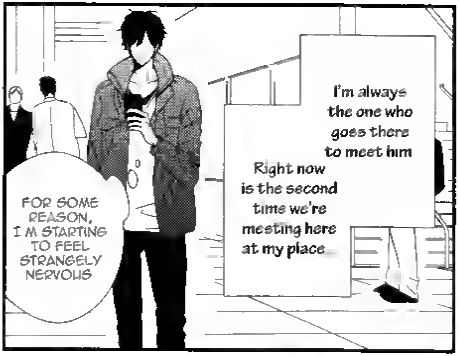
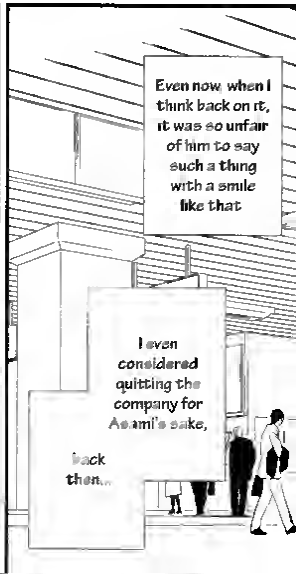
Caramel Line


THAT WAS V CLOSE... ONLY 5 MINUTES LEFT
THANK GOODNESS THE PARKING LOT WAS EMPTY
I WAS SO EXCITED I COULDN'T SLEEP A WINK, LIKE A MIDDLE SCHOOLER BEFORE A FIELD TRIP
I
FEEL LIKE A HIGH-SCHOOL BOY GOING ON HIS FIRST DATE
coming messages
I just arrived. I m waiting for you
When my job transfer was decided,
I was worried our relationship wouldn't last
We've made it two years now...
A TRANSFER?

YES.
I DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF BREAKING UP WITH YOU, ASAMI.
WHEN I W_S DATING SOMEONE BEFORE, OUR RELATIONSHIP ALSO BECAME LONG DISTANCE.
I STARTED GETTING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE LITTLEST THINGS.
THERE'S JUST SO MUCH YOU CAN T UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU RE NOT BESIDE EACH OTHER
I WAS PASSIVE, AND KEPT WAITING FOR HIM
IN THE END, OUR RELATIONSHIP FELL APART

ASAMI
BUT, SINCE I DON'T WANT TO BREAK UP WITH YOU, EITHER, KITAHARA.
I GUESS THE ONLY THING I CAN DO NOW IS TRY MY BEST


FOR SOME REASON, I'M STARTING TO FEEL STRANGELY NERVOUS
I'm always the one who goes there to meet him
Right now is the second time we're meeting here at my place


Even now, when I think back on it, it was so unfair of him to say such a thing with a smile like that
I even considered quitting the company for Asami's sake, back then...

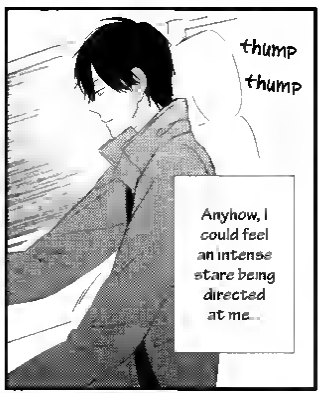
THE ASAMI I HAVEN'T MET UP WITH FOR THREE MONTHS IS HERE IN THE FLESH!
RECENTLY WE'VE BOTH BEEN BUSY AT WORK
Hiding behind the pillar
I CAN'T HELP GRINNING
THIS IS BAD !!
Fwah
AH! HE YAWNED!!
So cuuute...!!
VRRR VRRR
I'd be really happy if the reason for his lack of sleep was the same as mine

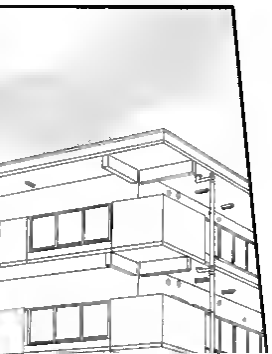
pick up
HELLO KITAHARA?
SORRY I'M STUCK IN TRAFFIC RIGHT NOW
IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE ARRIVING A BIT LATE
EH...
gloomy
AH IS THAT SO
WHAT~ ARE YOU FEELING DOWN?
DID YOU WANT TO SEE ME THAT SADLY, EVEN FOR 1 SECOND EARLIER?
?
?
WHY ARE YOU DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE GOING TO BE LATE...?

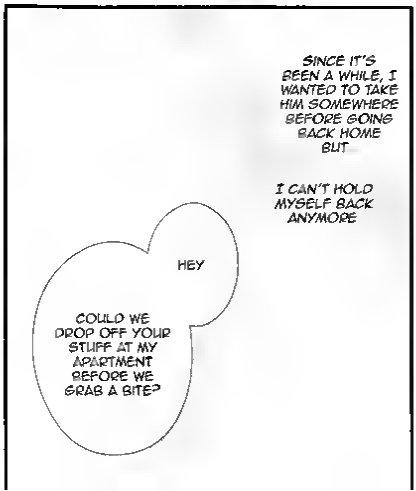
smirk
smirk
NOPE! I SAW ASAMI NERVOUSLY WAITING HERE,
SO I JUST WANTED TO TEASE YOU A LITTLE BIT!
WHAT A BAD PERSONALITY YOU HAVE!
Hahaha!
SORRY...
He's bright red up to his ears
GEEZ! HE'S SERIOUSLY CUTE!
JUST TOO DAMN CUTE!
Asami was originally not a very talkative person that's why...
...I feel relieved just by seeing his face
It's like he's conveying his feelings for me fully
It's too much for me
Stare

reach
DID YOU CHANGE YOUR HAIR COLOR?
SOMEHOW IT BECAME A BIT DARKER THAN BEFORE
grab
flustered
flustered
Hh
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING
I JUST THOUGHT THAT IT'S REALLY BEEN A WHILE
I KEPT THINKING ABOUT HIM
DURING THE TIME WE COULDN'T MEET WITH EACH OTHER
hold
Ah
OKAY
Eh
AH, MY CAR'S RIGHT THERE, SO SHALL WE GO?
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT.. THIS IS BAD

There should be a lot of things I want to talk about, but...
SILENCE
I wonder why


thump
thump
Anyhow, I could feel an intense stare being directed at me...




SINCE IT'S BEEN A WHILE, I WANTED TO TAKE HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE GOING BACK HOME BUT
I CAN'T HOLD MYSELF BACK ANYMORE
HEY
COULD WE DROP OFF YOUR STUFF AT MY APARTMENT BEFORE WE GRAB A BITE?

SLAM

YOU DON'T WANT TO?
BUT WOULDN'T THE FACE YOU'RE MAKING SUGGEST OTHERWISE?
KUH...
WAIT. WE'RE IN THE HALLWAY!
IT'S STILL BRIGHT OUTSIDE, SO...
BLUUSH
WAHH!
WHAT'S WITH THAT EXPRESSION! Sexy...
What should I do...

Slide
EVEN HIS SCENT...
IT'S REALLY BEEN A LONG TIME...
SO CUTE...
haa
Mn
I WANT TO TOUCH HIM MORE
THIS IS BAD...
AAAHHH
TOWARDS ASAMI, I'M REALLY...

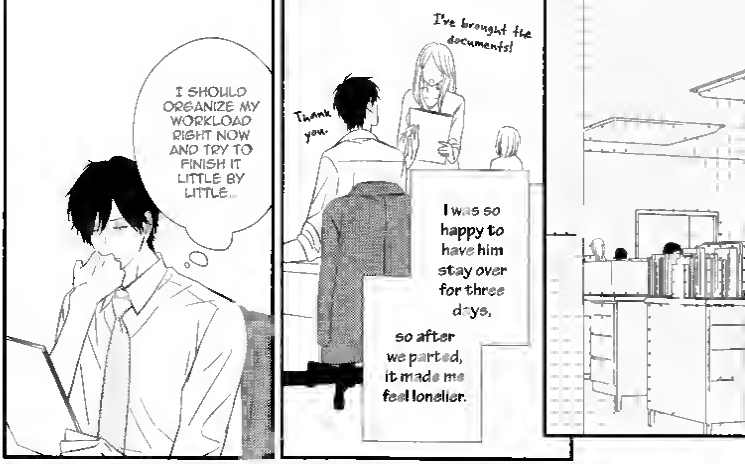
thump
!
squeeze

shaaaaaaa
The other day,
when I heard about being able to tranefer back to the HQ in Tokyo...
I CAN'T KEEP STAYING LIKE THIS
flomp
AAH I'M SO HAPPY
I'M ON CLOUD NINE
I got ahead of myself and ran around looking for an apartment for us to live in together without letting Asami know about it...
NO, BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED RIGHT? WE'VE ALREADY BEEN IN A LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP FOR TWO YEARS...
I'll tell him tomorrow.
I wonder what kind of face he'll make?

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
fWIPS
fWIPS
AH!! IT'S FINE!
DON'T PICK THEM UP. I'LL DO IT NOW, SO IT'S ALRIGHT!
SMACK
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
Apartment Searching Websites
Tokyo
Apartment For Rent
R-USTLE
I WANT TO PESTER HIM. TELL HIM, "I DON'T WANT TO LET YOU GO BACK."
AH, TOMORROW, THE RETURNING TRAIN'S IN THE EVENING, ISN'T IT?
YES, IT'S AT 7PM...
GOT IT. THEN IT SHOULD BE OKAY TO LEAVE THE HOUSE AFTER 5PM...

THESE THREE DAYS... FLEW BY IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
AH! WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
IT IS
IS HE PERHAPS A FRIEND FROM TOKYO?
THEN, CONTACT ME AGAIN AFTER YOU ARRIVE HOME.
OKAY
YEAH...
What bad timing...
Are you leading back now?
It must be tough...
YOU SEE... ACTUALLY I...
EH? KITAHARA-KUN?

Whisper
Whisper
?
DON'T TELL HIM ABOUT IT, OKAY? THAT I'M BEING TRANSFERRED BACK TO THE TOKYO HEAD OFFICE
BUT WHY? YOU SHOULD JUST TELL HIM ABOUT IT
EH?
WHAT IS IT?
COME HERE FOR A SEC
EH?
IT'S TIME ALREADY, SO I'M GOING NOW
BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY!
I was going to tell him that just now!
If I told him, his face would turn red...
...and he'd definitely cry all by himself in secret on the train. I'm sure of it...
This is just a delusion.


I SHOULD ORGANIZE MY WORKLOAD RIGHT NOW AND TRY TO FINISH IT LITTLE BY LITTLE...
I've brought the documents!
Thank you.
I was so happy to have him stay over for three days,
so after we parted, it made me feel lonelier.

In the end, I missed my chance to tell Asami about it
Slump
UGH MY HEAD HURTS
ON TOP OF THAT, THIS TIME OF YEAR GETS REALLY BUSY

I'm sure after I tell him, he'll make the cutest expression
No matter what, I want to see!
I don't want to tell him by phone, I want to tell him face to face.
The next time I see him is in a month

EVEN THOUGH I WANT TO SEE HIS FACE...
...THE ONLY THING I CAN DO NOW IS TO ENDURE AND WORK HARD.
KITAHARA-SAN, YOU SHOULD COME AND DRINK WITH US, TOO~
AH, NO, I'M FINE BEING HERE
EH~
Sorry!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A CHANCE FOR EVERYONE TO GET TOGETHER AND DRINK, WHAT RE YOU DOING DRINKING HERE ALL ALONE?
You popular guy!
RIGHT BACK AT YOU
Waaa!
MARI-CHAN'S CAUSING A RUCKUS OVER THERE SO I'M TAKING REFUGE HERE FOR A BIT
SEEMS LIKE SHE BROKE UP WITH THE GUY SHE'S BEEN GOING OUT WITH FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS
I HEARD THEY EVEN TALKED ABOUT MARRIAGE
SILENCE

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE BUSY WITH MANY THINGS BUT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO RETURN BACK TO TOKYO SOON THAT'S WHY
AT TIMES LIKE THIS, YOU SHOULD COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS MORE, DON'T YOU THINK?
HOW SAD.
I HAVEN'T TOLD THEM ABOUT THE TRANSFER...
WHAT?
ANYHOW, IT'S ABOUT YOUR GIRLFRIEND, I BET
Long distance love, right?
YEAH
It's not a girlfriend though
RECENTLY, THEY'VE ALSO BEEN BUSY WITH WORK, SO WE HAVEN'T CONTACTED EACH OTHER MUCH
THEIR JOB DOESN'T HAVE FIXED DAYS OFF
OUR SCHEDULE NEVER REALLY MATCHED BEFORE EITHER
ISN'T IT BETTER TO TELL HER RIGHT AWAY?
YOU CAN JUST TELL HER VIA MESSAGE
IF POSSIBLE, I WANT TO TELL THEM DIRECTLY
You sure like complicating things.

ANYWAY, I ALSO NEED TO ORGANIZE MY LUGGAGE
PREPARING FOR THE TRANSFER ALONE WITHOUT TELLING MY PARTNER MEANT I ENDED UP THINKING ABOUT THEM INSTEAD
IT'S LIKE, I LIKE THEM SO MUCH THAT IT BECOMES TOO PAINFUL FOR ME
How could they get to be so cute??
ARE YOU BRAGGING?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'M DISTRESSED!
No, YOU ALWAYS END UP SINGING HER PRAISES HALFWAY INTO IT
tap
tap
EH...
RIGHT NOW, IT'S QUITE NOISY HERE, BUT YOU HAVE SOME FREE TIME, RIGHT?
HOW ABOUT GIVING HER A C ̈LL FOR LITTLE BIT?
AH.
ANYWAY, YOUR PERSONALITY ONLY CHANGES WHEN YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT YOUR GIRLFRIEND.
Haha

VRRRRRR
VRRRR
HELLO? KITAHARA?
AH...
Poke
WAIT A MINUTE! WHY ARE YOU CALLING ANOTHER WOMAN?
BEEP
Sob Sob Sob
I CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT YOUR FACE
JEEZ~ THE CALL JUST NOW WAS FOR YOUR GIRLFRIEND, I BET!
AND HERE I JUST GOT DUMPED, YOU KNOW!
MARI-CHAN, YOU DRANK TOO MUCH!

PRRR
HE'S NOT ANSWERING...
PRRR PRRR
PRRRR
PRRRR
The storm is coming
Uuuu... Uu
This is not in the least bit funny...
C'MON! SHOW SOME SPIRIT!
IF YOU GET DUMPED, WE'LL JUST HAVE ANOTHER DRINKING PARTY!
pat pat pat
Hm...
YEAH, YOUR GIRLFRIEND MIGHT'VE MISUNDERSTOOD WHAT JUST HAPPENED
DON'T KEEP QUIET ABOUT TRANSFERRING BACK,
YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD HER AS SOON AS YOU KNEW
SLAM
I'M GOING B_CK.

WE STILL HAVE WORK TOMORROW
I'LL RETURN FIRST THING IN THE MORNING
THE TRAIN SHOULD STILL RUN AT THIS HOUR, RIGHT?
EH??
CAN IT BE,... YOU'RE GOING TO HER PLACE RIGHT NOW?
I GUESS I GOT CARRIED AWAY, GETTING EXCITED BY MYSELF.
EVEN SEARCHING FOR AN APARTMENT AND THINKING OF WAYS TO SURPRISE HIM
WHEN I THINK ABOUT BEING ABLE TO RETURN TO ASAMI'S SIDE ONCE I TRANSFER BACK TO TOKYO
I FEEL SO HAPPY

I'VE ALSO NEVER GOT ATTACHED TO SOMEONE LIKE THIS BEFORE
I NEVER IMAGINED THAT BEING APART WOULD FEEL SO PAINFUL.
WHICH REMINDS ME, WHEN WE FIRST STARTED THIS LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP,
I MIGHT NOT MAKE IT...
WHAT IF... BY SOME CHANCE...
A HEART-BROKEN ASAMI WANDERS THE STREET,
MEETS WITH A STRANGER AND SPENDS THE NIGHT WITH HIM...
Absolutely Not!!
Ugh...
CLONK

I DON'T WANT US TO BREAK UP BECAUSE OF MY MISTAKE!

EH?
IT CAN'T BE
ASAMI..?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE..?
TO THINK, WHEN I DASHED OUT TO MEET HIM WITHOUT CONTACTING HIM FIRST,
WE'D BE ABLE TO MEET HERE WITHOUT MISSING EACH OTHER...

IT'S NOT A COINCIDENCE, BUT FATE.
SORRY FOR SUDDENLY COMING LIKE THIS
I CAN'T REALLY SAY THINGS WELL BY PHONE,
SO I WANTED TO TALK FACE TO FACE
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
I WAS THERE BECAUSE I WAS THINKING OF GOING TO MEET YOU.
I was really shocked.
THAT'S WHY I WAS SO SURPRISED TO SEE YOU THERE
I FEEL SO HAPPY.. IT'S LIKE WE WERE CONNECTED.

ABOUT THE WOMAN ON THE PHONE EARLIER, IT WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING
IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THAT
HNN
ABOUT YOU... I ALWAYS TRUST YOU.
FOR EXAMPLE, YOU'RE WORKING AND HAVING YOUR SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE IN A PLACE I DON'T KNOW
OR...
...WHEN I WANTED TO MEET YOU BUT COULDN'T
BUT WHEN WE'RE SEPARATED, THE SMALL THINGS STARTED TO BUILD UP
I ENDED UP THINKING ABOUT MANY THINGS...
AS I THOUGHT, IT'S REALLY PAINFUL...

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD ASAMI SAY THOSE KIND OF THINGS
I'M SORRY
ME TOO, FROM NOW ON, FOREVER... I WANT TO STAY TOGETHER BESIDE YOU!
I'LL BE ABLE TO MOVE BACK TO TOKYO SOON

EH??
I WANTED TO TELL YOU BACK THEN
BUT I MISSED THE TIMING TO DO SO, AND JUST LIKE THAT I FAILED TO TELL YOU
I WAS SERIOUS ABOUT LIKING YOU
MY LOVE FOR YOU GOT STRONGER AFTER WE SEPARATED
I KNOW IT'S SELFISH, BUT EVEN IF I COULDN'T MEET UP WITH YOU WHENEVER I WANTED
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT BREAKING UP WITH YOU
I GUESS IT WAS BECAUSE I GOT CARRIED AWAY.
I'M REALLY SORRY!
THWACK
OUCH!
?!

YOU... ARE YOU CRYING?
I'm not crying!
I'M STILL SEARCHING FOR A COMFORTABLE APARTMENT FOR US TO LIVE IN, THOUGH...
YOU FOOL...
SORRY FOR ACTING ON MY OWN...
YOU'RE GRINNING TOO MUCH!
SORRY...
I DIDN'T WANT TO BREAK UP WITH YOU
THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE TO SEE YOU
THANK YOU!

Caramel Line — End

Caramel Line — Afterword 1

T/N Seiza is a formal way of sitting in Japan.

SEIZA
Hey, do you understand?
MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES...
YOU SHOULD INFORM ME ABOUT IMPORTANT STUFF SOONER!
EVEN THOUGH YOU ALWAYS HOLD BACK FOR ME...
I KEEP GETTING SPOILED BY THAT I'M SORRY
PLEASE BE MORE SELFISH AS WELL
THAT'S...
BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS LOOK COMPLETELY FINE, IT BECOMES HARD TO!
ISN'T IT FRUSTRATING TO ALWAYS BE THE ONLY ONE TO SAY THAT I WANT TO MEET UP?
STAGGERS
C-cute!!!
BUT I CAN FEEL YOUR LOVE FOR ME...

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT,
I ALSO...
BUT FOR SOME REASON I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN IT LOOKS LIKE I'M THE ONE BEING FUSSY..
IT'S NOT LIKE I SUSPECTED YOU OF ANYTHING. I CAME JUST BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE YOU NO MATTER WHAT
BUT WHEN WE MEET UP AFTER SOME TIME, SOMEHOW IT MAKES ME FEEL SUPER EXCITED INSTEAD
IT'S TRUE THAT IT'S HARD WHEN WE CAN'T MEET WITH EACH OTHER
Of course I felt lonely, but...
Hmm?
EXCITED
I mean, it's way more...
By thinking like that, being stimulated by that might also turn out not so bad either...
EXCITED
Maybe it's because he'd been holding back, so when we met up, I could see Aeami being bolder than usual.
Not that I really mind, though.
YOU'RE REALLY TIGHT-LIPPED, HUH, KITAHARA?
SERIOUS
ME TOO! AT THOSE TIMES WHEN WE COULDN'T MEET, I COULD ONLY THINK OF YOU!

Hello, it is nice to meet you, I'm Nemoto Nagina

Thank you very much for purchasing this book

Caramel, Honey and Sugar, there're only sweetish titles in here.

With Imai's character, I didn't expect for them to become such a lovey-dovey couple like this but seems like Imai surprisingly loves Hagashida more than he thought (lol)

I tried to imagine a bit about each couple's future.

Honey Sour Flavour

Imai plans to quit track and field after 4 years of college and find a job in a normal company. When his environment changes, there seems to be a bit of distance in their relationship. Under that circumstance, I also thought about how Hayashida thinks about Imai's legs. For Hayashida, he's about to say to Imai that what he likes about him is not just his legs alone... but since it's the truth that he loves his legs so much so rather, it doesn't sound persuasive at all. (lol)
In the end, Hayashida can't take his eyes off of Imai and Imai tends to show him his shy side more than before, so I think they might remain being lovey-dovey the same, or even more than that.

Sparkling Sugar

I feel like these two will have a long way to go even if they got to flirt with each other but then being pushed down like that might be somewhat rushed. I guess after is the time for them to sort out their feelings.
I wonder how Nakaura feels while watching Mogi at the entrance. Since the time he has to stand there to guard is long, it seems like he thinks about lots of stuff. Plus, normally he moves around pretty much so that might make him think about more things. Nah, but then he might not think about anything (lol)

Caramel Line

After that, surely with no doubts, I think they would go to find an apartment and live together happily (lol)
Because it's a long distance relationship, there're lonely times when they can't meet each other but being able to meet up after some time would make them reaffirm their feelings for each other, like they'd feel happy or think they're really in love with the other.

Finally,
first of all, to my editor-sama who helped me out with so many things and everyone who took care of me. I'm really thankful to all of you.

See you soon, thank you for reading!

Nomoto Nagina

Honey sour flavor

ハニーサワー・フレーバー

初出一覧

ハニーサワー　フレーバー
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